

U. A. GUNN  
SPIRIT LAKE P.O. SASK.

THE

# B L U E J A Y

Official Bulletin  
Of The  
YORKTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

Honorary President:  
L. T. McKim, K.C.- Melville

President:  
Mrs. I. M. Priestly

Vice-President:  
J. R. Foreman

Secretary-treasurer:  
C. Stuart Houston

Directors:  
Miss Ethel Lloyd  
Mrs. E. Johnson  
Vernon Barnes  
Harvey Beck

OBJECTS:

To foster an active interest in  
every branch of nature study,  
and to promote the conservation  
of all wild life; also to act  
as a connecting link between  
nature lovers in Saskatchewan.

SECRETARY'S ADDRESS:

Box 642,  
Yorkton, Sask.

Membership fee 25¢ per year

VOLUME 1, NO. 3

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 1943

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



With the best few weeks of the year for bird lovers lying immediately ahead one has little desire to look backward at the winter scene. So we will merely mention that, in the season just past, while the winter birds which come around our homes were, for the most part, scarce, out in the open country the larger birds - Snowy Owls and Goshawks were more abundant than usual. A marked decline in the numbers of Sharp-tailed Grouse has been noted in most districts.

Up to the end of April migration this spring has presented some interesting features. A very cold March kept back the early migrants. Then warmer days the first week of April brought the birds back with a rush, particularly on the 3rd and 4th. Since then a return of chilly weather has again put a check on migration and we have been looking in vain for several old friends which, most years, put in an appearance before the end of April.

A highlight for our Society was Dick Bird's visit to Yorkton in February to give his talk "Camera Trails Along Nature Trails." Mr. Bird is an ardent conservationist and, apart from the vivid memories of his lovely nature pictures, two points in his talk stand out in our mind. Firstly his explanation to the school children that "standing on guard for Canada" means protecting everything that goes to make this Canada of ours, right down to the little yellow warbler on its nest, or the first silky "crocus" in springtime. One wishes everyone who preaches conservation to children could have Mr. Bird's gift for presenting this subject.

And then there was his plea to his adult audience for greater appreciation of the beauty to be found in our province. Mr. Bird feels there has been too much stress laid on the "bald headed prairie" and that we have failed to build up, in our children, sufficient love and pride in the western landscape. Certainly Mr. Bird's lovely films were proof enough of the beauty that lies right at our very doorstep or in the poplar bluff just down the road.

We are most grateful at the increasing number of letters and reports coming in. Owing to lack of space it is not possible to include every item in our bulletin, but all records received are filed for future use or reference. We should be glad to get any suggestions for improving the "Blue Jay". Realising that there is so much more known about the birds than the animals of our province we have been wondering if it would be a good idea to devote one page of each issue to notes on animal life, or if we might concentrate on information regarding one particular species each issue, just as we have collected this time quite a lot of information about bats. Please let us know.

We are honored to be allowed to print Mr. Potter's list of bird records made in the province since the publication of Mitchell's "Catalogue of Saskatchewan Birds" in 1924. We have placed this list on the back page of this number of the "Blue Jay", so that it may be easily detached for inclusion in files.

Mrs. I.M. Priestly,  
President,  
Yorkton Natural History Society.





## LOCAL NOTES

Dick Bird, A.R.P.S., F.Z.S., Regina, was a busy man during the two days he spent in Yorkton in February. Not only did he give his talk, "Camera Trails Along Nature Trails" on Feb. 22 to a capacity audience in St. Andrew's United Church, but he spoke to the Rotarians at their regular Monday luncheon, showed his films at all three public schools and the Yorkton Collegiate, and also went out and showed his lovely pictures to the R.C.A.F. boys and girls at the Recreation Hall at No. 11, S.F.T.S. on Sunday evening.

---

This time of year reminds us of activities a few seasons ago, of some of our boys now in the Armed Forces - of "Doug" Foreman, now experiencing his fourth spring in England, who could always be relied upon to see the first horned lark, and of Jack Culver and Frank Priestly, returning muddy and wet of foot from an April hike to York Lake with reports of swans or pelicans. We send them all our best wishes, also to Mr. Baines' two sons from Crescent Lake, Dave with the R.C.A.F. on the Pacific coast and Phil in India.

---

Starlings seem to have taken up residence on the farm of Dave Stearn at Willowbrook. Last winter a pair of these newcomers were noticed, but this season ten or twelve have stayed about the barns and straw yard all winter.

---

Several correspondents have wanted to know if the pet Purple Finch, described by L.T. McKim in the last number of the "Blue Jay", was keeping its colour in captivity. According to Mr. McKim, his little friend, in spite of careful feeding, shows signs of becoming yellow. Already there is one spot on his breast and a few yellow feathers in his wings. Otherwise he has sung all winter and appears very healthy. (Perhaps he needs some more of his favorite chickweed to preserve his coloring.)

---

On April 6 J.R. Foreman noticed a Golden Eagle flying in a northerly direction at a good height. A plane approached from the east and the eagle made a sudden dive to a lower level apparently badly frightened. On the whole, birds seem little disturbed by the training planes. We understand that recently a crow crashed right through the windshield of a plane from No. 11, S.F.T.S. and landed a shattered mass on the floor of the cockpit.

---

We have had three Yorkton reports of people who were lucky enough to see a flock of lovely Mountain Bluebirds passing through in migration early in April.

---

F. Baines was out on his snow-shoes in the Saltcoats district making observations on the deer after the heavy storm in mid-March and reports that they have evidently come through the winter well, there having been little crust to the snow in the bush this season.

---

Water is already starting to flow into York Lake and there is every indication that thanks to the work of Ducks Unlimited it will regain its former level this summer.





## ORIOLES - by Ethel Lloyd

With pleasurable jaunts by car likely to be only a memory this summer, our local surroundings will come into their own, and it is with the idea of pointing out the fun and interest to be had right in one's own back yard that these notes are being written.

For a number of years our family has taken a great interest in the orioles and considered it a privilege to provide them with nesting materials. So, at the end of May, we put out pieces of string and yarn of different lengths and colors, and bits of sheep wool, on the branches of the trees behind our bird-bath, as well as laying them alongside the bird-bath stand. Then we wait for the fun to begin. As a matter of fact, it is the more soberly clad Mrs. Oriole who does all the home building and weaves the deep swinging cradle for her babies. Her brilliant mate merely acts in an advisory capacity.

Two years ago our first customer came at noon and the noisy chatter of a male oriole had us dashing up from the dinner table. We spotted two orioles perched in the maples back of the bird bath. The male bird was pouring out constant warnings, and incessant alarm notes until he reduced his little wife to such a state of nerves she hardly dared to light on the edge of the stand and pick up the coveted material. Twice she came down and pecked at the string, and then dropped it in a mad rush to take cover at her lord's command. This pair of birds made numerous trips during the next few days, the male bird always remaining well hidden in the maples while his more daring mate would fly to the bath stand, hastily pick up a piece of white string and return with it streaming behind her to the safety of the trees. There she would neatly loop the string in her bill before carrying it to the home site. Her mate tagged along, each flight back and forth to the garden, and never ceased to give loud advice. Perhaps it was his choice that nothing but white string was used, for she was never seen to take any other.

Later another couple found the supply-yard, the male bird again acting in the same capacity as a noisy escort. His lady-love was much calmer, however, and paid scant attention to his ravings as she deliberately chose her materials. She was very fond of orange yarn and we later identified her nest by a tassel of orange wool waving from it! Rope fibres also intrigued this lady and she would tug strenuously at the strands to unravel them. The next lady that came also flew straight to the bird bath, so we concluded that the first one was a very timid bride who doted on her husband's every word, alarmist that he was!

This third lady took sheep's wool, rope and string, but no yarn. She decidedly did not like short pieces of string and any that were under ten inches were immediately dropped. Each piece was carefully looped up into a neat hank before being carried off. One warm day a very much harassed little female, to the dismay and surprise of her escort, suddenly dropped her hank of string, cast a longing glance at the cool water of the bird bath and stepped in for a refreshing dip. Then after a good splashing she flew up into the tree to preen her feathers while "friend hubby" alternately sulked and scolded in the shade of the leaves at this interruption to nest building.

This is but one charming example of the fun that can be had bird watching in even quite a small patch of garden.





## PROVINCIAL NOTES.

Mrs. John Hubbard, of Grenfell, sent some interesting observations in February on the Hairy Woodpecker. "Have you received any complaints about the destructiveness of the Hairy Woodpecker?", she asks, then goes on to report that, on their farm, "one of these birds had been ripping holes in the bins out in the field allowing the grain to run out, (in "cahoots" with the grouse, no doubt)." Another bird, she states, "is very active in the yard. Not content with the woodpile, it has made many more holes in a granary already badly mutilated by flickers. My husband says he has noticed this bird feeding on "chop" where it has been spilled on the ground, so evidently grain is sometimes relished by this species. Something else that has not added to the popularity of this particular Hairy is that he is now working vigorously on the bottom of a telephone pole. When he gets down to business chips fly in all directions - as a carpenter he makes a good wrecker." (Even if a woodpecker goes to work on apparently sound trees or lumber, you may be sure that the wood-boring grubs have already been at work out of sight. The Hairy has been known to spend nearly an hour of hard labor digging out a single borer.-Editor.)

---

Mrs. Hubbard also reports finding a Saw-whet Owl in their garage on Jan. 2 who was not as much impressed with the Hubbard family as they were with him. "When inspected too closely he stuck out his tongue and sputtered like a small rather badly behaved boy." Apparently Saw-whets have been more in evidence than usual this winter; one was reported by Jim Rogerson from Saltcoats in the Xmas Bird Census and W. Niven, Sheho, came across one in January and again in February, and several have been noted in Manitoba. Are any of our members acquainted with the famed "saw-filing" notes of this diminutive owl?

---

Bohemian Waxwings are now regular winter visitors in most places, and some interesting comments on this fact appeared recently in the Free Press bird column, "Chickadee Notes." The editor, A.G. Lawrence, points out that "The great increase in the number of crab apple and other small fruit trees and berry-bearing shrubs in the Prairie Provinces has undoubtably attracted the Bohemian Waxwings in recent years. Formerly the birds were scarce stragglers and seeing a flock was an event."

Most bird books make a note of the Bohemian Waxwing's fondness for the berries of the Mountain Ash and H. Downing, of Moosomin, was telling us that he and Mrs. Downing always spread the Mountain Ash berries, used in the Harvest Festival decorations, on the trellis in their garden for the Bohemian Waxwings and the Pine Grosbeaks. Siberian crabs are also a special favorite of the former and every year the first spot in Yorkton to receive a visit from the Bohemian Waxwings are some very fine crabapple trees in the C.P.R. station gardens. Here, quite unperturbed by the shunting of trains only a few feet away, these birds from the northern solitudes systematically set to, and stripped all the tiny apples from the branches.

And while on the subject of Bohemian Waxwings, have any members ever noticed these birds sallying after insects on a warm day in early spring? On April 9 Mrs. Priestly came across a flock of Waxwings in a bush close to town which were darting into the air "Flycatcher-fashion" after tiny flies. One can quite understand that some tasty morsel would be welcome after a steady winter diet of frozen berries.

---

"Man is the worst enemy with which wild life has to contend. If he can be restrained by law, persuasion or education, most wild creatures of prairie and forest will take care of themselves, as they have always done in the past, in spite of epidemics and so-called vermin." -Dr. T.S. Roberts.





## PROVINCIAL NOTES (continued)

Support of H. Rayner's plea, in the last issue of the "Blue Jay", for protection of the weasel has come to hand. F. Baines, Saltcoats, writes "I am heartily in sympathy with Mr. Rayner, of Ituna, who thinks weasels should be protected. I know that they sometimes kill chickens, but this is unusual and they probably save many more by killing rats and grey squirrels."

Mrs. J. Nixon also says "Do not make the mistake of holding chicken stealing against the short-tailed weasel, he is a real mouser and, as far as I have been able to ascertain, there are no bad marks against his name. The Long-tailed Weasel is sometimes destructive of poultry and may also rob birds' nests on occasion, but they are to be commended as a natural check on gophers."

And here we should mention a weasel seen last Fall by Mr. Sinclair Mowat of Saskatoon which had so completely lost its sense of direction that it was noted right in downtown Saskatoon opposite the post-office! And shortly after that Mr. Mowat saw another unusual sight - a beaver swimming in the river making his way past the Bessborough Hotel.

---

Most of us have had some experience of extreme friendliness on the part of Chickadees. In fact, just recently, Miss E. Jones, of Raymore, wrote that the Chickadees she was feeding this winter had become so tame that they would sit on her head and eat out of her hand all the time. However a letter from W.J. Orchard, Regina, shows the "cheerful Chickadee" in a totally different light.

"A certain Calgary lady," says Mr. Orchard, "who always makes a habit of feeding the birds got on very friendly terms with one particular chickadee in the winter of 1941-42. Last summer while having tea on the lawn some chickadees were heard up in the surrounding trees. The hostess spread some crumbs on her hand and held them out. A moment later a chickadee lit on her outstretched hand and started to pick up the crumbs. But hardly had this started when an angry shriek was heard and a second chickadee came down like a rocket and knocked the first bird end over end. The attacker then came back and perched on her hand but, instead of eating the crumbs, he pecked viciously at her fingers. Evidently the second bird was the one who had been fed that way during the previous winter and considered that he had a monopoly of the affection and benefactions of this lady. Finding a hated rival, he was not content with driving off the interloper but must also wreck vengeance on his benefactor for daring to encourage that rival."

---

Dr. R.W. Kirkby, Prince Albert, writes of the Timber Wolf and states, "Timber Wolves are taking an immense toll of the big game animals in the northern part of the province. This last fall, while hunting in the muskegs to the south and east of Candle Lake, I saw far too many signs of their work. Within the radius of our camp we came upon six kills and the hard paths padded down by the wolves were much in evidence. I consider there again should be a bounty put on timber wolves to encourage the trappers to go after this menace to game animals." (This is something with which we in the south have little first hand knowledge, but according to some authorities the timber wolf does not make excessive inroads on the deer population unless there is a shortage of smaller animals, such as the snowshoe rabbit, which normally constitute the bulk of its food. Most animals under natural conditions have marked cycles of abundance and scarcity, and possibly even without any artificial control, the Timber Wolf itself may show a decrease in numbers within the next few years.-Editor)

---

The Wild Flowers of the countryside belong to us all. Protect them!





## PROTECTION FOR THE RED LILY

"There is no more gorgeous sight in nature than a field of Red Lilies in bloom in early July. Even the chance glimpse of one or two along a roadside or among trees in open woods is a picture to enjoy.

"There was a time when the Red Lily bloomed in vast numbers everywhere. Then it began to decrease, partly due to the increased cultivation of the land. That was inevitable as people surged west. The inexcusable procedure of people, professing to love wild flowers, actually tearing up every lily in sight, is another matter. Red flowers are not very common and the very showiness of our lily has all but proved its undoing. When flowers decrease as the population increases, the smaller number of flowers must be left for a larger number of people to enjoy. Only through education and public sentiment can the Red Lily be saved."- From "Wild Flowers of the Prairie Provinces" by Elizabeth Burnett Flock.

Dick Bird also made a strong appeal for the preservation of the Red Lily, Saskatchewan's Floral Emblem, when he was speaking in Yorkton in February. (And incidentally his "stills" of this lovely blossom are among some of the most beautiful examples of color photography we have ever seen.) We ask all members of our Natural History Society to take an active interest in the question of Wild Flower Protection and to spread the slogan of "Enjoy but do not Pick", both for the Red Lily and many other prairie flowers. Even the little "crocus" is becoming less abundant every year.

### A SPARROW HAWK PET -by LeRoy Simmons, Maymont.

Last spring I discovered a Sparrow Hawk's nest in what was evidently an abandoned flicker hole. It was about ten feet from the ground, in a tall stub, set well back among a group of poplars, but so placed that the entrance hole faced a large open meadow bordering on a wheat field.

When I found the nest it contained five eggs. Later one more was laid. I had always thought that the Sparrow Hawk did not incubate until a full clutch of eggs had been laid but evidently I was wrong as several days elapsed between the hatchings. Only three of the eggs hatched and two of the young were so much larger that they smothered the third nestling. I watched the mother bird feeding them by the hour - her mate never assisted her in the task of feeding the young ones. Grasshoppers formed the main item of their diet but mice, large moths, and quite a number of yellow warblers, wrens and chipping sparrows were also brought to them.

The two young were male and female and even at this early stage, the difference in plumage was well marked. Finally I picked out the young male bird and brought him home. After hand feeding him for some time on grasshoppers and sparrow meat he soon became very tame. He would fly about the yard all day and sleep in the elevator office at night. During the day he would come to see me at any time. With the approach of Fall he showed no desire to migrate so when the days began to get really cold I shipped him to my friend, C.T. Ridley, well-known bird fancier of Winnipeg, and the last time I heard he was still chattering happily at all and everybody.

---

The two wintering Meadowlarks, reported in the Christmas Bird Census, both failed to survive. F. Roy of Tullis tells us that the one around his yard was picked up dead on the morning of Jan. 22 when the temperature had gone down to 54 below zero. Up to that time the bird had appeared perfectly normal and survived 35 and 40 below all the previous week. The Sheho bird also disappeared around New Year, possibly destroyed by a cat.





## INFORMATION PLEASE.

F. Baines, Saltcoats, asks "What has become of the real Prairie Chicken or Pinnated Grouse? Some years ago they were plentiful and their "booming" could be heard in spring where ever there were low flats. Now they seem to have disappeared completely." W. Niven, Sheho, writes that Pinnated Grouse have not been present in that area since 1929. Before that they were fairly common and had one of their "dancing grounds" on his farm. On our Yorkton Bird List we have only two records of this bird for the past five years. In contrast to these reports however, it is interesting to learn that the Greater Prairie Chicken (to give this species the name now accepted by the authorities) is becoming established as far north as Prince Albert National Park. The Greater Prairie Chicken was not an original inhabitant of the West but came into Manitoba and Saskatchewan from the States to the south, and followed settlement westward and northwestward. This bird is also sometimes called the "Prairie Hen."

---

We received several reports of the Great Blue Heron. After the close community life of the breeding season the Blue Heron adopts a completely solitary existence and wanders far and wide, and it is as a lone individual along some creek or quiet lakeside that most correspondents know this picturesque bird. Two letters mention the fact that anglers regard the Blue Heron with disfavor and consider it a menace to game fish. This prejudice is open to question (see Taverner's comments in "Birds of Canada"). E.P. Coe, Wawota, states that at one time herons did considerable damage to brown trout and brook trout in Cypress Hills Park, but now that the waters there are well stocked, these birds make little noticeable inroads on game fish.

The breeding range of the Blue Heron extends all over the province. Several colonies are located in stands of White Spruce in Prince Albert National Park. L.T. McKim knows a heronry on the south shore of Crooked Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley. There are about twenty nests in this colony, all in dead poplars, and when Mr. McKim visited it early in August last year, about six of the nests still had almost full-grown young in them. He also knows of a second heronry on an island in a lake about 14 miles north of Punnichy, and has been told of another on the shores of Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle valley. And R.M. Ferrie of North Battleford wrote to tell us of a heronry in an island in the South Saskatchewan River, fifteen miles north-west of North Battleford which he has been acquainted with for several years and which he believes is quite an old colony. We should be interested to hear of other nesting places of the Great Blue Heron.

---

Magpies are evidently increasing in numbers all over Saskatchewan and also extending their range northward, as they are now reported from Nipawin. In the south they constitute a pest. Steve Mann, of Skull Creek (S. of Piapot) writes: "Magpies are becoming more numerous yearly in spite of persecution. Last fall I counted as many as eighty in one flock. In the Fall they are beneficial as insect-eaters, particularly grasshoppers, but they destroy untold numbers of young birds, both wild and domesticated, earlier in the year and are a menace to grouse. They will even go right into the hen house for eggs, and will pick up small chicks from the yard the minute one's back is turned. They have also been known to attack the brands on cattle, picking them raw. I feel that the Magpie should be hunted down relentlessly, only unfortunately they so often nest in wild bush country such as that up towards the headwaters of our creek where they are almost unmolested."

And, from the south-east corner of the province, Mrs. Nixon, of Wauchope, says that, although as a naturalist she enjoys watching the magpie collect sticks for their bulky nests, "one can't let them stay with young chicks about. Last year they came over a mile, one after the other, and played havoc with our hatch.





## INFORMATION PLEASE (continued)

A report of Starlings near Yorkton appears in this issue. To what extent have these birds succeeded in establishing themselves in Saskatchewan? A few years ago, when the Starling first appeared in the West, there was a mild flutter of excitement in the newspapers and so on but of late we have read little concerning this probably undesirable migrant. (Just as we "go to press" we have received a letter from M.G. Street saying he has seen his first Starlings at Nipawin. We think this must be the most northerly record to date for Starlings in Saskatchewan.

---

We have now collected quite a lot of information about bats. First of all, thanks to Dr. D.S. Rawson, Professor of Biology at the University of Saskatchewan, we have found out that there are five species of bats listed for the province. Most common is the Little Brown Bat with province-wide distribution. The Red Bat is also abundant over the southern half of the province and the Silver-haired Bat is likewise common, particularly where there are trees. Rarer are two large bats, the Big Brown and the Hoary. The latter being almost entirely confined to the northern woods.

Francis Roy, of Tullis, tells us that bats are fairly common in that district and he believes the majority are Red Bats, although he has seen several dark ones which are probably Silver-haired. A few years ago a colony of bats summered in an abandoned log house, on the banks of the Saskatchewan river, about ten miles from Tullis. "Bats", he says, "are sometimes found roosting around the elevators and it is believed, locally, that these bats may have come in box cars from points east, but this is mere guesswork and has never been substantiated."

Further north, at Nipawin, M.G. Street once found a small light brown bat asleep in a gunny sack thrown over the side of a wagon and he has seen others under the eaves of a granary. However, when birding with his brother near Tisdale a few years ago, noticed an old flicker hole, apparently well used, in a poplar stub. Upon giving the stub a sharp slap, to their surprise out poured seven bats en masse in a most startling manner. One of these bats alighted on his brother's trouser leg. These bats had long dark fur with the long guard hairs tipped with silver.

And nearer Yorkton, F. Baines, of Crescent Lake, writes that they used to see more bats, years ago, when mosquitoes were more plentiful. Mr. Baines has come across bats in day-time under the bark of dead poplars but he has never heard of them being found hibernating in winter.

In her column "Nature", Mrs. Nixon has described an experience with a Silver-haired Bat, which was found, almost drowned, in the water tank under the eaves of their house. The Nixon family placed the forlorn but defiant little creature in a box with a glass front and watched it proceed to dry itself off. "With flickering pink tongue it licked its fur just as a cat would, combing out the tangles with the hooked claws of the back feet, finally "mouthing" all over the extensive webbing of the wings with meticulous care." Dead flies were dropped into the box and after a while, one or two of these were eaten. Then, with the approach of dusk, Mrs. Nixon placed the box in the crotch of a tree and next morning the bat was gone.

Bats are extremely beneficial as insect destroyers, particularly in forest areas, but very little is known about the details of their life histories. Apparently no hibernating bat has ever been found on the Prairies, but Mrs. Nixon wonders if there is a possibility of any bats spending the winter in the Bienfait mines. We should like to get some reports when bats are first noted in spring; do they return with the swallows as soon as the small flying insects become plentiful? Somehow one only connects seeing bats with hot summer nights.

---

Do pelicans nest any place in the Qu'Appelle Valley? Dick Bird was telling us recently that he believes all the Pelicans seen in summer on the Qu'Appelle Lakes are non-breeding birds.





## SASKATCHEWAN NATURE COLUMN

"Nature", by Marion Nixon, is the title of a delightful nature column which appears every two weeks in the Saskatchewan Farmer. From her farm home at Wauchope, Mrs. Nixon writes of a wide variety of subjects- the beauty of the fresh green of the young poplars, salamanders in the cellar, butterflies, or meadow mice; in fact, anything that comes before her observant eyes. Her first column appeared April 1st, 1939, and we send her our very best wishes as she commences her fifth year as nature reporter for the Saskatchewan Farmer.

### PREDATORS.

Several records in this issue of the "Blue Jay" refer to the status of various predatory birds and animals. It is heartening to realize what a much more intelligent approach is now made to this question. The whole problem of predation is most complex and needs to be made the subject of extensive scientific research. So many of the predatory creatures are unsuspected links in the chains which preserve the balance of nature, and too often in the past, wholesale destruction of a so-called "undesirable" species has brought about disastrous results.

We agree that in some extreme cases, where a species has increased out of all proportions and become an economic pest, as have the crow and magpie, wholesale methods of destruction seem advisable. But in many instances, particularly in the case of hawks and weasels, it is often quite sufficient to destroy the individual offender rather than wreck vengeance on the species as a whole. We have seen too much of the destruction of wild creatures, on hearsay or circumstantial evidence, and we ask all our members, particularly the country members, to make a most careful study of any instances of predation that may come their way.

### FIFTY YEARS OF BIRD RECORDING.

We are proud to include as a member of our society Mrs. C.W. Cates of McLean, Sask. For fifty years Mrs. Cates has been forwarding bird migration dates to the U.S. Biological Survey (now part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.) As Miss C. Ester Wemyss she sent in her first reports in 1893 from the family home at Reaburn, Manitoba, and later from Neepawa and Qu'Appelle. Since 1915 her observations have come from McLean. In 1896 a sister, Margaret (now Mrs. D.C. Dickson), sent records from Neepawa and still reports regularly from Wisetown, Sask. We hope to give a fuller account of the remarkable record of these two ladies in the next issue of the "Blue Jay."

### NEW BIRD BOOK.

An outstanding new book dealing with wild life is the recently published "Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America", by F.K. Kortwright and illustrated by T.M. Shortt, a native son of Winnipeg and former member of the Manitoba Natural History Society. We have not yet seen a copy of this book, but it is evidently the most comprehensive and at the same time readable book yet published on these species. "Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America" may be obtained in Canada through MacMillan Company, St. Martin's House, Toronto at \$5.50. It was published in the United States by the American Wildlife Institute, price \$4.50 U.S. funds. B. W. Cartwright, Chief Naturalist for Ducks Unlimited, in reviewing it in the Winnipeg Tribune, said that "Every naturalist and bird lover will find it an essential addition to his library."

There is far greater beauty in a wild flower growing in its natural setting than in any wild flower plucked. Let us remember Nature's garden is one we share with others.





SASKATCHEWAN BIRD RECORDS MADE SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF  
MITCHELL'S CATALOGUE OF SASKATCHEWAN BIRDS IN 1924.

Contributed by Laurence B. Potter, Eastend.

- CASPIAN TERN.- Specimen taken by H. H. Mitchell at Lake Johnston, June 28, 1927.  
BLUE GOOSE.- Specimen taken at Stoughton by Dr. J. R. Hoag, April 27, 1931.  
AMERICAN EGRET.- Specimen taken at Davidson by Reuben Lloyd, August 7, 1937.  
Specimen taken at Crescent Lake (south of Yorkton) by F. Baines,  
October 25, 1941.  
LITTLE BROWN CRANE.- Specimen collected at Skull Creek (south of  
Piapot) by S. A. Mann, May 8, 1930.  
YELLOW RAIL.- Specimen, Mrs. T. Willers, Viceroy, May 21, 1930.  
KNOT.- Three specimens taken by Mitchell at Last Mountain Lake, May 27, 1924.  
HUDSONIAN CURLEW.- Specimen taken by Mitchell at Last Mountain Lake, May 29, 1924.  
MOUNTAIN PLOVER.- Sight record, J. Dewey Soper near Bracken, June, 1939.  
BLACK VULTURE.- Sight record, E.H.M. Knowles, Regina, September 19, 1937.  
COOPER'S HAWK.- "Donated by R. H. Carter, Muscow", 1926 (to the provincial museum)  
No other data given.  
BARN OWL.- Specimen obtained from Aylesbury, May 5, 1924.  
SCREECH OWL.- Specimen taken by Mitchell, Souris Valley, 1926.  
CHIMNEY SWIFT.- Two specimens secured by F.G. Bard from the Pasquia Hills,  
May, 1939.  
RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD.- Specimen picked up at Eastend in dying condition, Aug. 10,  
1929 by Henry Clarke. Sent by L.B. Potter to Provincial  
Museum.  
CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD.- Specimen taken by Charles Guiguet at Shaunavon, August 22,  
1935.  
CRESTED FLYCATCHER.- Specimen taken by Mitchell at Rocky Lake, Moose Mountain  
district, June 21, 1924.  
PINYON JAY.- Sight record, L.B. Potter, Eastend, September 16, 1910.  
BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.- Sight record by Potter at Eastend, May 27, 1937. Specimen  
of young bird taken by Potter, July 10, 1937.  
HEPBURN'S ROSY FINCH.- Specimen taken by Spencer Pearse, Ravenscrag,  
March 1, 1933.  
GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE.- Specimen taken by Norman Clarke at Tregarva, June 6, 1929.  
LAZULI BUNTING.- Male specimen obtained by F.G. Bard at Round Lake (north of  
Broadview) in the spring of 1931.  
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.- Specimen collected by Mitchell near Ravenscrag, May 22,  
1925.  
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.- Specimen taken by John Nelson at Percival,  
October 21, 1936.  
CONNECTICUT WARBLER.- Specimen taken at Madge Lake (north of Kamsack) by Mitchell,  
May, 1926.  
SAGE THRASHER.- Specimen taken south of Shaunavon on Frenchman River by Charles  
F. Holmes, June 24, 1933.  
MOCKINGBIRD.- First seen by Potter at Eastend, May 31, 1928. Specimen collected  
June 4. Second specimen collected by S.A. Mann, Skull Creek,  
Nov. 1, 1929.  
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.- Two specimens taken by Mitchell at Regina, Oct. 11, 1929.  
One picked up dead at Gainsborough by J.T.S. Reynolds  
on October 12, 1929.

